(a) whether the Prime Minister of Australia has recently, paid a visit to India and held discussion with his counterpart and other leaders on several issues;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held with the Prime Minister of Australia with various leaders and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Australian Prime Minister has urged Government of India to upgrade 'strategic partnership' and to expand the bilateral relationship; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on such views of the Australian Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Yes. Mr. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia visited India from 11 to 13 November, 2009. During his visit, he met the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister to discuss bilateral, regional, international and economic issues of mutual interest. External Affairs Minister, Minister for Human Resource Development and Minister for Commerce and Industry were present during the talks held between the two Prime Ministers. Minister of State(IC) Environment & Forests called on the Australian Prime Minister. A Joint Statement between India and Australia and a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation were issued at the conclusion of the visit.

(c) and (d) The two Prime Ministers upgraded the relationship to a strategic partnership and affirmed their desire to intensify bilateral contacts. They emphasized the need to reinvigorate bilateral parliamentary exchanges and welcomed the proposal to establish a new Young Political Leaders Exchange Propramme. The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the signing of a MOU on Cooperation in the field of Water Resources. The recent agreement on India and Australia holding an Annual Ministerial Dialogue on Education, was yet another important decision. Australian Prime Minister reiterated Australia's support for India's candidature for a permanent seat of a reformed UNSC.

Meeting with special representative of China

†1561. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that just after a few hours of completion of 13th round of talks between the special representative of India and China in New Delhi to settle the border dispute between the two countries the military analyst of main think tank of China advised the Chinese Government to work on the strategy of dividing India into 20 to 30 independent countries;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government has registered its objection with the Chinese Government in this regard; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Civil nuclear deal with Canada

1562. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a civil nuclear deal has been lately signed between India and Canada during the recent visit of Canadian Prime Minister to India;

(b) if so, the terms of the deal and the details of the nuclear material and know how to be supplied by Canada; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

US support for representation in UNSC

1563. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has also indicated its support to India's claim to represent at the UN Security Council (UNSC);

(b) whether the US had earlier in 2006 itself indicated its willingness to extend support to this claim of India;

(c) the big powers which have so far have indicated their support to India's membership of the UNSC; and

(d) the steps that have been and are being taken to have India's claim materialized?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) There has been a steady accretion of support to India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council since it was announced in 1994. Several countries have extended support to India's claim for permanent membership of an expanded Security Council. This has been expressed in various forms and fora including in bilateral discussions with Government of India.

(d) Government continues to vigorously mobilize support for India's permanent membership of an expanded United Nation Security Council. For this purpose, India remains fully engaged, bilaterally as well as in collaboration with the G-4 (India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan), with other member states. In the inter-governmental negotiations at the United Nations General Assembly, India along with like-minded countries has pressed for an expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories.